GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4751
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
SMUGGLING ALONG INDO NEPAL BORDER
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any diplomatic arrangements have been made with the Nepal Government to check the spurt in smuggling from the northern border of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) & (b) Government of India has made the following arrangements with His Majesty`s Government of Nepal for preventing unauthorized trade/ smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border:

(i) There is an Agreement between India and Nepal for Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade. This Agreement was renewed on March 2, 2002, for a period of five years with effect from March 6, 2002. Regular dialogue between Customs officials of the two countries takes place under this Agreement to coordinate and continue to strengthen our cooperation in this area.

(ii) The Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade, Transit and Unauthorised Trade, headed by the Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, meets regularly to review the entire gamut of trade and economic cooperation issues between India and Nepal including aspects relating to unauthorized trade.

(iii) A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level Talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas.